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No changes coming for water meter system

The Buzzards Bay Water District will not support the installation of alternative irrigation metering for ratepayers who want to maintain pools, keep lawns green and grow extensive gardens.

District Superintendent Barry Woods told sewer commissioners that the so-called outflow meters would cause problems at a time when the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is coming perilously close to mandating no outside water usage beyond personal consumption.

"We came close to that last year as a district," Woods said. "We were within 5 percent of usage last summer. This could lead to a full mandatory ban."

The district continues to explore ways it could sink another well on district land off Bournedale Road. Still the district faces new realities; notably, limited water usage. And that is something that flies in the face of approving alternative metering for folks who don't want their high water usage to place them in overage payment situation on their sewer system bills.

Outflow meters invite problems, he said. They invite non-essential use of water, lead to creation of illegal bypasses and in some cases prompt homeowners to tie washing machines into the normal metering

"They're difficult to man-

age," Woods said. "We don't go into every home now. We have different ways to read usage. Alternative metering is not feasible. The DEP won't rec-

ognize it. It might work in a condo situation, but not elsewhere.

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